





## CANADA.

## PHYSICAL.

The Dominion of Canada, nearly equaling in territorial extent the Continent of Europe, stretches from ocean to ocean, and from the Arctic regions to the greatest system of fresh-water lakes in the world. Were it not that the United States possesses Alaska, and that Labrador is attached politically to Newfoundland, the Dominion would include all of the continent north of the United States.

The agents which determine the physical features of Canada are the St. Lawrence River and the chain of Great Lakes; Hudson Bay, with its southern rivers, which almost connect the salt with the fresh water seas, and the great chain of the Rocky Mountains, which extends from the Arctic Ocean through the western possessions and forms a boundary to the vast well-watered area of agricultural lands which stretches, south of 60°, nearly to the region of Hudson Bay.

As a whole, there is no internal water system in the world which is so intricate or extensive as that included in the chains of the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes; the portages, rivers, and lakes, broken by only a few miles of land, from Lake Superior to Lake Winnipeg, and thence to Hudson Bay; and the nearly continuous waterway from Hudson Bay to the Arctic Ocean, via the Churchill, Athabasca, Slave, and Mackenzie rivers, with their accompanying lakes. This course from the Atlantic to the Arctic Ocean is at least 5,000 miles. The Mackenzie River rises in the Rocky Mountains and flows east and north, for over 2,400 miles, into the Arctic Ocean. The two branches of the Saskatchewan River (which flows east into Winnipeg Lake) take their rise in the Rocky Mountains between the Northwest Territories and British Columbia. The distance traversed to Winnipeg Lake is about 1,300 miles, and the eastern extension, from Lake Winnipeg to Hudson Bay, which is known as Nelson River, is 500 miles farther. The above are the principal sections of the water system outside that of the River St. Lawrence. The St. Lawrence system, from Cape Gaspé, Province of Quebec, to the St. Louis River, which flows into the head of Lake Superior, is 2,100 miles, exclusive of canals. It drains an area of 335,500 square miles. The Ottawa River, 800 miles in length, is the largest tributary, draining 80,000 square miles of territory; the St. Maurice 400, and Saguenay 100 miles in length, are smaller, but important streams.

In the Ottawa Basin one of the greatest sources of Canada's wealth is found—in the dense forests of pine, cedar, tamarack, elm, walnut, oak, beech, ash, and maple, which chiefly lie within the district west of the St. Lawrence, watered by the Ottawa River and its branches. The white and red pine of this region is the most valuable timber found in the Dominion.

The maritime districts include Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Cape Breton, Prince Edward and Anticosti islands, as well as the northeastern portions of the Province of Quebec. They, and the independent Colony of Newfoundland, have developed principally because of their cod, salmon, herring, lobster, whale, and seal fisheries. Great quantities of salmon are taken from the St. Lawrence and its tributaries. The agricultural resources and the mineral wealth of Ontario are great, and it is also the chief seat of the manufacturing industries of the Dominion. Manitoba and the southern districts of the Northwest Territories must depend upon agriculture and stock-raising.

Beyond the Rocky Mountains, intersected by the rivers and streams of British Columbia, is the region of gold; and still beyond, toward and along the Pacific Ocean, with Vancouver Island as their nucleus, are productive salmon fisheries. North and west of the vast agricultural tract, stretching to the Arctic Ocean and to Alaska, and comprising nearly half of the area of the northern territories, are the rich fur-bearing regions, whose products, still monopolized by the great Hudson Bay Fur Company, are shipped largely to London from Montreal and different points on Hudson Bay and the Columbia River. The beaver, bear, wolf, fox, otter, marten, mink, muskrat, squirrel, and moose contribute to the animal wealth of Canada, especially of the Northwest Territories.

The St. Lawrence River, which flows for 750 miles through the southeastern districts of the Dominion, is certainly a grand outlet for the wealth of Canada. But it has other uses, as have its other vast bodies of water. Gulf and river discharge every second 1,000,000 cubic feet of water.

From Lake Ontario to Quebec the St. Lawrence varies in width, expanding into Lake St. Louis, which is at the mouth of the Ottawa, and into Lake St. Peter just above the St. Maurice River. For forty miles below Lake Ontario the river flows among the Thousand Islands (actually 1,692 in number). A few miles below Quebec the St. Lawrence is four miles wide. Nearly opposite this magnificent city, founded upon a rock by France, the river is divided by the Island of Orleans into two channels. On the north shore are the Falls of Montmorency, descending 240 feet at a leap. As it leaves the Isle of Orleans the St. Lawrence is eleven miles in width, and it continues to expand as it nears the Gulf of St. Lawrence. At the mouth of the Saguenay, the river is sixteen miles wide; between Pointe des Monts and Cape Chat, 260 miles below Quebec, thirty miles; and as it approaches the Island of Anticosti, it doubles and trebles in width, until at Cape Gaspé, on the southern shores of the Province of Quebec, it is 100 miles across. This point is 400 miles northeast of the City of Quebec, and 430 miles southwest of the Straits of Belle Isle, which are between Labrador and New Foundland, and form the extreme outlet of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

## INTERNAL COMMUNICATION.

Naturally, the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River form a most important factor in the commerce of Canada. Before the advent of railroads this stupendous water system was the binding force of the British possessions. To perfect it, however, many artificial links were made. Among the leading improvements were those accomplished in 1821-48, consisting of a series of canals built to avoid the rapids below Montreal. Over \$15,000,000 has been

expended on this stretch of forty-three miles, the Lachine Canal being, perhaps, the most satisfactory portion of the work. Montreal, Ottawa, and Kingston are also connected by canals. The Rideau Canal, between Ottawa and Kingston, constructed as a military precaution, is of great commercial importance. The St. Lawrence canal section, along which much Canadian trade passes, is from Prescott to Montreal. The Welland Canal extends twenty-seven miles between Lakes Ontario and Erie, lake and ocean steamers being thus carried around the Falls of Niagara. St. Mary's Rapids, in the river of that name connecting Lake Superior with Huron, are avoided by a ship canal, which, with the deepening of the St. Lawrence between Montreal and Quebec, and of the St. Clair River and Lake, enables the mammoth ships of commerce to navigate to Duluth, Minn.—the brisk shipping port for Northwestern grain—or to Chicago, at the foot of Lake Michigan—the metropolis of the Western United States. By means of the Richelieu River and Canal, between the St. Lawrence and Lake Champlain, the Champlain Canal, between that lake and Erie Canal, and the latter great waterway between Albany and Lakes Ontario and Erie, the Canadian system is connected closely with the waterways and commerce of the Empire State. Up to 1889 Canada had spent \$55,085,712 upon canals. The canal, river, and lake navigation of the St. Lawrence system is 2,700 miles in length.

The railways will also play a great part in the development of Canadian prosperity. The decade from 1847 to 1857 was most important in railway life, for during that period Canada constructed the lines which formed the nucleus of the Grand Trunk and Great Western railways, which connect with the United States system of iron ways. Then the older railways of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were joined by the Intercolonial Railway to those which were built north of the St. Lawrence; and last and greatest came the Canadian Pacific, connecting with them all, passing through the Province of Ontario, just touching the shores of Lake Superior, to the beautiful city of Winnipeg; thence through the wheat fields of Manitoba and other cereal lands to the Rocky Mountains, and over the Rockies and streams of golden sand to the Pacific Ocean. The total length of the Canadian Pacific from Montreal to Vancouver is 2,906 miles, the railway bringing England four days nearer the East than before. The first railway was the one between Laprairie and St. John's, Quebec, which was opened July 21, 1836. It was sixteen miles in length. In 1850, when ground was broken for the Northern Railway, there were only seventy-one miles of track in the territory now embraced in the Dominion. In 1867, there were 2,258 miles of railroad, and June 30, 1890, there were 14,004 miles completed, of which 13,256 were being operated. In 1868, the paid-up capital of the railways was \$160,471,190, and in 1890, \$786,447,812. The total number of persons carried on the Canadian roads in 1890 was 13,900,000. Messages were sent over 30,000 miles of telegraph lines so that the settled portions of Canada, though separated by broad stretches of wilderness, are closely connected by water, rail, and electricity.

## INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

No one product of Canada approaches that of its forests as a source of natural wealth, the exports in this line amounting to over one-fourth of the total value, or \$26,179,000 out of \$96,749,000. The products of the forests go chiefly to Great Britain and the United States, but a great deal is shipped to South America and the West Indies. The different provinces grant permits for the cutting of timber, and only those trees which have reached maturity are selected; hence, notwithstanding the woodman's ax and the destructive flames, which clear away thousands of acres at a sweep, the natural growth exceeds the present consumption.

Nearly 56 per cent. of the population of the Dominion are engaged in agricultural pursuits. It is not surprising therefore that their products should exceed in value those of the persons employed in any of the other great industries. The total value of the agricultural produce exported in 1890 was \$35,442,500. That of the cereals, hay, clover, peas, beans, etc., was \$11,900,000. The exports of cheese in 1880 were 40,368,000 pounds, worth \$3,893,000. In 1890, they had risen to 94,260,000 pounds, worth \$9,372,000. But while the exports of butter in 1880 were 18,500,000 pounds, worth \$3,058,000, in 1890 they had fallen to 1,951,000 pounds, worth \$340,131. Horned cattle, sheep, and horses constitute the animal wealth, which is chiefly confined to Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, with the Northwest Territories yet to prove formidable competitors. Among the cereals, barley, wheat, rye, and oats lead. The best lands are in the northwestern provinces.

The mineral riches of the Dominion are very great, and widely distributed. Gold is found in large quantities in British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and some sections of Ontario. There are rich silver mines in Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia. Iron is found in all the provinces except Manitoba. Many of the magnetic and hematite ore beds are of great richness, but have been so little developed as yet that the total production of pig-iron in the Dominion is but little over 60,000 tons a year. Copper is found in Ontario, Eastern Quebec, Nova Scotia, and British Columbia, and is one of the most important minerals in the Dominion. Lead is produced at several points, and nickel and platinum mines are worked at Sudbury, 300 miles northwest of Toronto.

Coal leads all other minerals in value of product. As yet, Nova Scotia and British Columbia furnish nearly all that is mined, but the deposits in the Northwest Territories, which have barely been touched as yet, are of great extent, and are practically inexhaustible. Petroleum has been found in Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and many points in the Northwest Territories, but the greater part of the Canadian product comes from Ontario, where it was first discovered in paying quantities in 1862. Natural gas was struck at Port Colborne, Ont., in 1885, and has also been found in small quantities in Quebec and the Northwest Territories. The salt produced in the Dominion is made chiefly in Ontario. One of the

valuable minerals exported from the Province of Quebec is asbestos, the output in 1890 being over 6,000 tons and increasing steadily.

The fishing industries are chiefly centered in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and British Columbia. The total value of the product of the salt and fresh water fisheries in 1890 was \$17,714,902. The leading items were: Cod, \$3,433,580; salmon, \$3,036,569; herring, \$1,958,492; lobsters, \$1,648,344; mackerel, \$1,524,976. The value of the fish exported during the year was \$8,461,906. The capital invested in the fisheries is \$7,372,641, and the number of men employed, 63,725. Of the 1,590,000 tons of shipping registered for the entire Dominion, these two provinces have 725,000. Their total volume of trade, however, cuts little figure beside that of Quebec and Ontario—the total imports and exports of the former amounting to \$85,600,000, and of the latter to \$73,000,000.

The returns of the thirty-nine incorporated banks of the Dominion, made June 30, 1890, give their paid-up capital as \$59,569,765; deposits, \$136,187,515; liabilities, \$174,501,422; assets, \$254,628,694.

## GOVERNMENTAL.

The former provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick were united under an act of the Imperial Parliament, known officially as the British North America Act, which went into effect in 1867. Ottawa had been the capital of the first two since 1858. The Northwest Territories were added to the Dominion by purchase from the Hudson Bay Company in 1869; during the following year the Province of Manitoba was organized; in 1871 British Columbia joined the confederation, and in 1873, Prince Edward Island. Newfoundland is still a self-governing crown colony. Under the act of 1867, Upper and Lower Canada were named Ontario and Quebec. The form of government of the Dominion is modeled closely after that of the mother country. The Crown is represented by the Governor-General, who acts in the administration of the Dominion, as the Queen does in that of the kingdom of Great Britain, through ministers responsible to the representatives of the people. The Governor-General takes no active part in legislation, but governs through a council known as the Queen's Privy Council for the Dominion of Canada. The legislative power is vested in a Senate and House of Commons, the Senators being nominated for life by the Governor-General, and the members of the lower house elected by the people for a term of five years. There are 80 Senators—24 for Ontario; Quebec, 24; Nova Scotia, 10; New Brunswick, 10; Manitoba, 3; British Columbia, 3; Prince Edward Island, 4, and the Northwest Territories, 2. At present the House of Commons consist of 215 members, distributed as follows: Ontario, 92; Quebec, 65; Nova Scotia, 21; New Brunswick, 16; Manitoba, 5; British Columbia, 6; Prince Edward Island, 6, and the Northwest Territories, 4. The house now serving was elected on a basis of one member to every 20,000 inhabitants, but a new apportionment has to be made after every decennial census. It is provided, however, by the act creating the Dominion, that Quebec shall have the fixed number of sixty-five members, and that each of the other provinces shall have such a number of members as will bear the same proportion to the number of its population as sixty-five does to that of Quebec. The right to vote for members of the House of Commons is given to all citizens of the Dominion, including Indians, in the old provinces, if they possess the necessary property qualification. It is so low, however, that suffrage is practically universal.

Each of the seven provinces forming the Dominion has its home parliament, or legislature, the lieutenant-governor—an appointee of the Governor-General—being at the head of the executive department. In Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, the legislature is composed of two chambers—a Council, appointed by the lieutenant-governor, and an Assembly, elected by the people. Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia have but one chamber each—the Legislative Assembly. In each province there is a responsible ministry, the advisers of the lieutenant-governor being the leaders of that party which has the majority in the Assembly. Each province determines for itself the qualifications of voters for members of the Assembly.

## SOCIAL.

A fair idea of the comparative importance of the provinces may be obtained from their areas and population. With 222,000 square miles, Ontario has a population of 2,114,475; Quebec, 228,900 square miles—population, 1,489,062; Nova Scotia, 20,600—population, 450,492; New Brunswick, 28,200—population, 321,270; Prince Edward Island, 2,000—population, 109,080; Manitoba, 73,956—population, 152,505; British Columbia, 383,300—population, 97,612. The Territories, 2,150,027—population, 98,967; The total area, including lakes and rivers, is 3,456,000 square miles. The census of 1891 makes the population 4,829,411. About four-fifths are natives of British North America. The largest cities of the Dominion are Montreal, in the Province of Quebec; Toronto, Ontario; Quebec, Quebec; Hamilton, Ontario; Ottawa, Ontario; St. John, New Brunswick; Halifax, Nova Scotia; London, Ontario, and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Immigration—especially to the wheat fields of the West—has been increasing of late years. In 1890, there were 178,921 immigrants, of which number 75,067 became permanent settlers.

There is no state church in British North America. Of the religious denominations, the Catholics comprise 1,790,000 in a total of 4,829,000; the Methodists, 742,981; the Presbyterians, 676,165; the Anglicans, 574,818, and the Baptists, 296,525. The Roman Catholics greatly predominate in Quebec and the French districts, and the Methodists and Presbyterians in Ontario.

Public instruction in the provinces is encouraged by yearly grants of nearly \$5,500,000, the elementary schools numbering 15,000, and the superior schools 1,000. To this encouraging exhibit should be added the twenty-four colleges—each province, except British Columbia, having at least one university.